

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055253

12

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-02 EB-07

SCA-01 SCSE-00 H-02 INR-07 DLOS-05 PRS-01 CG-00

DOTE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 DODE-00 /076 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/EP - JFKING:GFH

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/EP - JOHN F. KING

----- 013393

R 121808Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS STATE 055253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: WH PRESS BRIEFING WITH RON NESSEN

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT WHITE HOUSE PRESS  
BRIEFING MARCH 11:

2. QUESTION: RON, YOU SAID YESTERDAY YOU WOULD CHECK  
ON WHETHER THE PRESIDENT DISAGREES WITH GOVERNOR REAGAN'S  
CONTENTION THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS DESERVE PROTECTION ON  
THE HIGH SEAS.

MR. NESSEN: I DIDN'T SAY DISAGREE, DID I?

3. QUESTION: YOU SAID YOU WOULD CHECK. DOES THE PRESI-  
DENT FEEL WE SHOULD GO ON TOLERATING THIS SEIZURE OF  
132 OF OUR TUNA BOATS?

MR. NESSEN: THE SITUATION ON THE TUNA BOATS IS AS  
FOLLOWS: ONE, THE UNITED STATES HAS PROTESTED TO THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR OFFICIALLY; TWO, THE UNITED STATES  
IS ITSELF NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR  
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PAGE 02 STATE 055253

ON THE ISSUE OF FISHING RIGHTS; THIRD, THE LAW OF THE

SEA CONFERENCE RECONVENES ON MONDAY IN GENEVA, AT WHICH  
THIS ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED AND HOPEFULLY RESOLVED;

AND FOUR, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT WE HAVE THAT  
ANY AMERICAN SHIPS THAT HAD BEEN LOANED OR SOLD TO THE  
ECUADOREANS WERE USED IN THESE MATTERS.

3. QUESTION: IN THE EVENT THAT THIS IS NOT RESOLVED --  
BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR 13 YEARS -- WILL THE  
PRESIDENT PROVIDE AMERICAN CITIZENS PROTECTION OF THE  
UNITED STATES NAVY THAT THEY ARE PAYING FOR OR NOT?

MR. NESSEN: TWO THINGS. I WOULD RATHER NOT GO  
ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WILL  
NOT RESOLVE THE ISSUE. SECONDLY, AS A GENERAL MATTER,  
THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT BELIEVE IN ANYTHING THAT  
WOULD EVEN SMACK OF GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, SHIP DETENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, FISHING DISPUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750087-0792  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EC, US, (NESSEN, RON)  
**To:** QUITO  
**Type:** TE  
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